

NASA Goddard Visitor Center

Model Rocket Spot Landing Competition



Dr. Robert H. Goddard

WHEN: Saturday July 19, 2025 12 noon – 3 pm (Sorry, there is no rain date.)

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: This event is open to the public. All model rocketeers are welcome.

COST: FREE

EVENT: Your objective is to launch a model rocket that comes closest to reaching the center of a circular “Moon” marked on the ground.

WHERE: NASA Goddard Visitor Center, Greenbelt, Maryland

(I-95 Exit 22A, Baltimore-Washington Parkway Exit for Route 193 East; then follow signs to the Visitor Center on ICESat Road)

AWARDS: First through fifth place trophies and model rocket kits for the top finishers in the youth division and the adult division.

REGISTRATION: Register at the launch site on the day of the launch.

SPONSORS: The “Goddard Contest” is hosted by the NASA Goddard Visitor Center and conducted by the National Association of Rocketry Headquarters Astro Modeling Section (NARHAMS). Assistance has been received from the Maryland Space Business Roundtable and model rocket companies.

WHY: This event is to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, and to anticipate next year’s 100th anniversary of the first liquid-fueled rocket flight by Dr. Robert H. Goddard.

Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to all model rocketeers.
2. Contestants must follow the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) Safety Code
3. Modelers must provide their own model rockets, wadding, engines, igniters, and prepping tools. The Visitor Center will provide the launch equipment suitable for 1/8” and 3/16” diameter straws (launch lugs).
4. Contestants may fly either as an individual or as part of a team. Entry into both team and individual competition is not permitted.
5. Model rockets must use a single (NAR classification and safety certified) engine for each flight. “D” class engines or greater are prohibited.
6. The total weight of the model rocket with motor must be less than five (5) ounces.
7. Model rockets must pass preflight safety, motor, and weight inspections at the launch site prior to launch.
8. Model rockets must land safely and must use either streamers or parachutes or gyrocopter-type devices for their recovery.
9. Model rockets must not separate into two or more unattached parts during flight.

Contest Judging and Other Important Information:

1. Modelers may launch their model rocket one time.
2. A launch is a successful ignition of the motor. A flight is when the model rocket starts to move upward on the launch pad and until the model rocket finally stops its descent.
3. The object of the event is to determine whose flight comes closest to reaching the center of a circular 125’-diameter “Moon” marked on the ground.
4. If a model rocket lands on the “Moon,” contestants must leave the model rocket undisturbed until the model rocket is measured.
5. Officials will measure all model rockets that land within the “Moon’s” boundaries.
6. Measurement will be from the “Moon’s” center to the tip of the model rocket’s nosecone. The measurement becomes the contestant’s score.
7. The person with the smallest measurement (i.e., closest to the “Moon” center) will be declared the winner. The next smallest score will be second place and so on.
8. The contest will be flown in two age divisions: one is for those 15 years and younger; the other is for those 16 years and older. Teams will be classified by the age of the oldest team members.
9. Decisions of the judges are final.
10. These contest Sundays have traditionally been some of the hottest days of the year, so be prepared. Also, please be prepared to have FUN!

Time Schedule:

Visitor Center Hours for This Event
Contest Registration
Contest (Flying Period)
Awards Ceremonies

12 Noon to 4:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further information, call the Goddard Visitor Center at (301) 286-8981, Thursday through Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.